

News Items and Public Crime Summary for Week Ending August 7, 2010

Aruba – Tourism Struggles Due To Venezuelan Economy and Policy

The total of stay-over visitors for the first five months of 2010 improved by 3.9% compared to the same period in 2009. The number of cruise passengers over the first five months decreased by 7.4%. Venezuelan tourism dropped by an average of 30% in April and May which is attributed to the struggling Venezuelan economy and its foreign travel exchange policy. (Central Bank Press Release)

Aruba – USFOL Commander Bell Pays Various Courtesy Visits

Aruba Governor Fredis Refunjol and Prime Minister Mike Eman each received a courtesy visit from USFOL Commander Brian Bell and his Deputy Lt.Col. Donald Hudson. They discussed various topics of mutual interest, a press release said. (Various media)

Curacao – U.S. Company AES To Introduce Natural Gas Into Curacao

An essential source of clean, affordable energy will soon power Curacao, thanks to the liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in the Dominican Republic and the support of Arlington, VA-based AES. Curacao Commissioner Humphrey Davelaar said natural gas will significantly diversify Curacao's fuel mix and make the island much less dependent upon oil and related fuel commodities. AES developed, built, owns and operates the Andes Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Import Terminal in the Dominican San Andrés which stores imported LNG shipped primarily from Trinidad and Tobago, for use by AES plants and for sale to Curacao in approximately one year. AES is a global power company with generation and distribution businesses across five continents. Founded in 1981, AES built its first power plant in 1985 in Texas, which was also one of the first competitive power plants in the U.S. (Various media)

Bonaire – Handicapped U.S. Military Will Visit Bonaire to Dive

The San Diego-based Diving Equipment & Marketing Association (DEMA), the Bonaire Tourism Corporation and Captain Don's Habitat will bring wounded Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to participate in a Bonaire scuba program August 7 and 8, for a fifth consecutive year. (Various news)

Aruba – Restart Valero Refinery Postponed by At Least Two Weeks

Valero Energy Corp planned restart of its shut 235,000 barrel per day Aruba refinery in September, after completing an overhaul currently underway, is postponed by at least two weeks, Aruban Finance, Transport, and Utility Companies Minister Mike de Meza said. (Various media)

Aruba – U.S. Citizen Sentenced to 18 Months for Smuggling Cocaine

A U.S. citizen was sentenced, by an Aruban judge last week, to 18 months in prison for smuggling cocaine. He was arrested on March 1, 2010, together with two women, in possession of 1.5 kilos of cocaine, at Reina Beatrix Airport. The two women were released. (Amigoe)

Aruba - Search Continues: Loose Ends Remain in Holloway Case

Aruban Law Enforcement officials searched the Tierra del Sol area last week, verifying all loose ends, in the Natalee Holloway criminal investigation. Aruban Public Prosecutor Blanken said, based on the results of the search, there is no sufficient reason to further investigate at this location. Natalee Holloway disappeared on May 30, 2005, during a high school graduation trip to Aruba. Joran van der Sloot, currently in a Peruvian jail, was arrested twice on suspicion of involvement in her disappearance, but was never convicted. (Various media)

Aruba – Law Enforcement Authorities Confiscate 70 Kilos of Cocaine

Aruban Law enforcement authorities confiscated approximately 70 kilos of cocaine which were found aboard a “go fast” east of the Island on Tuesday. The boat capsized during the Coast Guard NA&A pursuit; the crew of six was arrested. (Various media)

Aruba – Investigation Into Possible TIP Case; Four Arrests Made

Aruban Law Enforcement Officials have started an investigation into possible Trafficking in Persons violations at the “Foxy Lady” nightclub. Cash, cars, and various other possessions were confiscated during a search at the nightclub. Four adults were arrested. The raid was instigated after police received complaints concerning the working conditions and possible exploitation of female dancers, Aruban Public Prosecutors Office spokesperson Ann Angela said. (Antilliaans Dagblad)

Curacao – U.S. Citizen Key in US \$7.5 Million Bankruptcy Case

Gilbert Armenta, President and CEO of E. Oliver Capital Group (EOGC), is the center in an US \$7.5 million bankruptcy case, according to a report in the newspaper Antilliaans Dagblad. Ft. Lauderdale-based EOGC is reportedly liable for the debts of Curacao Internet Service Provider Curanet. Curanet is a subsidiary of the MIO-group, a consortium of companies based in the Netherlands Antilles and the U.S. MIO is a provider of mobile communications services in the Caribbean. (Antilliaans Dagblad)

CURAÇAO

Crime July 30 – August 5

On July 30, a snackbar in Ronde Klip was robbed. One client was shot and injured. The same evening, another snackbar in Saliña was robbed. On August 1, two tourists in Punda were robbed by a purse snatcher. On August 2, a man arriving home in Salsbach was surprised by three men. The victim tried to

escape, but ran his vehicle into a nearby wall. He was subsequently robbed (Extra, La Prensa, Amigoe).

ARUBA

Crime July 30 – August 5

On August 1, a female driver was robbed in Palm Beach. The suspect was later arrested (Diario Aruba, Amigoe).

"The Weekly Press Summary is a compilation of stories running in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruban press that is intended to alert readers about items of interest to them. There is no interpretation or verification of the facts contained therein."